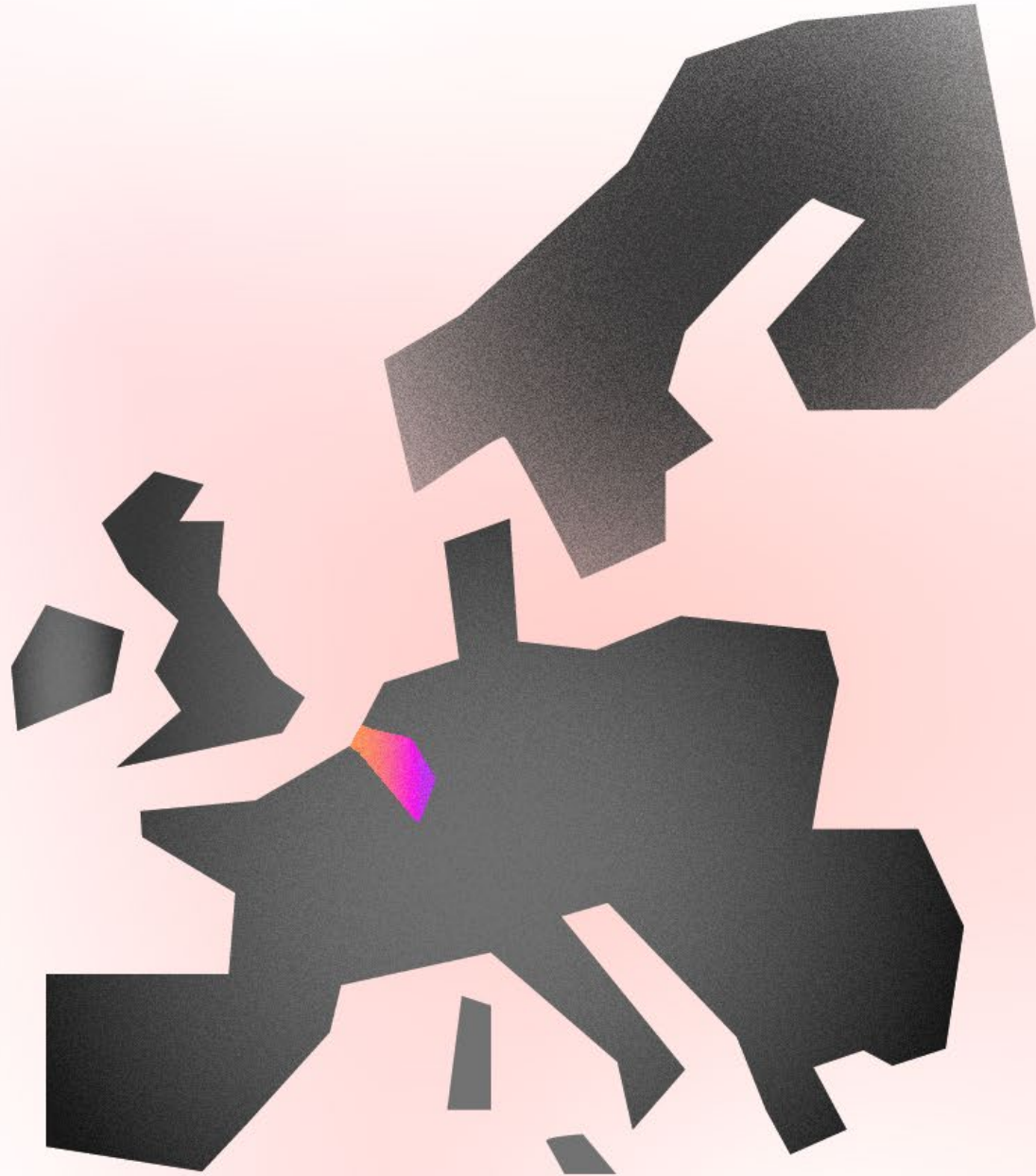




Belgium

The health & biotech valley. Today. Tomorrow.

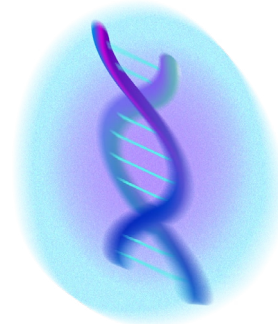
Welcome to the future of health, biotech and biopharma.
Belgium is open for business.
Are you?



The health and biotech valley of Today and Tomorrow

Uniquely positioned at the heart of an ultra-connected Europe, Belgium is the meeting point for world-leading innovation, world-class talent, a specialised logistics network, and proactive government support.

We invite you to explore a single, seamless, state-of-the-art biotech and biopharma ecosystem that is accelerating revolutionary research and biomanufacturing outcomes for today... and tomorrow. Belgium has big plans for the future.



State-of-the art ecosystem

€5.7bn

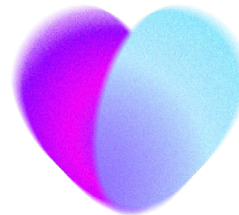
Invested in R&D in 2022



World-class talent

+43K

Direct jobs



Active government support

+600

Industry players



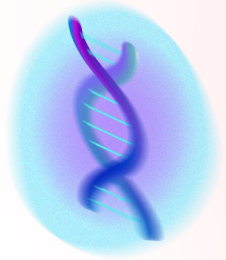


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Belgium is open for business. In an ever more competitive international environment, we are bolstering our world-class ecosystem to ensure that Belgium takes its place as the Health and Biotech Valley of Tomorrow. We are determined to maintain our unique position at the heart of a connected Europe, based upon the top talent we have and a robust set of policies and strategies that we are rolling out right now.

Alexander De Croo,
Prime Minister of Belgium





State-of-the-art biotech and biopharma ecosystem

Belgium's unique ecosystem seamlessly connects the entire value chain from start-ups, spin-offs, and SMEs to established global players, public authorities, and academia.

World-class training and education guarantee the long-term, future-proof employability of students in an ever-evolving life science landscape.

The Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP) plays an essential role in the protection of public health by ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines and health products.

To realize Belgium's ambition to keep its pole position in life sciences, the FAMHP acts as accelerator, fully deploys its expertise in clinical trials, embraces digital transformation and leads the way in a.o. innovative vaccines and ATMPs. A partner you can count on.

Federal and regional governments both actively invest in the sector to promote foreign trade, attract foreign investments, and incentivise investment in R&D.

And we connect to the world across a vast logistical network of road, rail, air, and sea.

No other place offers such a dynamic national ecosystem to nurture, promote and accelerate innovation, talent, and growth.





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Our highly skilled workforce, our world-class university networks as well as the presence of leading companies, research centres, science parks and innovation hubs. This is what stands out in Belgium and makes our biopharma ecosystem so unique.

Hadja Lahbib,
Minister of Foreign Affairs





Breakthrough

innovation

Belgium is a global leader in biotech and biopharma R&D innovation, clinical trials, and cutting edge biomanufacturing platforms. Together, they have driven numerous medical breakthroughs.

Belgium is

#1

innovation leader in EU



More than

400

patent applications submitted (2022)



2x

more patent applications submitted compared to the EU27 (2016-2021)



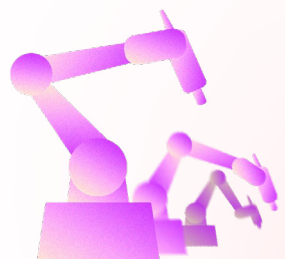
Over the last three decades, R&D spending in Belgium has grown faster than Japan, Europe, and even the US. With over €5.7 billion invested in 2022 alone, the European Innovation Scoreboard ranks Belgium as an ‘innovation leader’.

All governments are determined to maintain the country’s position at the cutting edge of progress, an ambition reflected by a wide and extremely attractive range of incentives.

Unrivalled R&D support

- 80% deduction on the withholding tax for R&D employees.
- Up to 85% deduction on innovation income tax.
- Public subsidies and refundable cash advances.
- Tax deductions for investments in patents and R&D.





Factories of the future



Creating tomorrow's technologies

Belgium is at the forefront of tomorrow's technologies such as cell and gene therapies (ATMP), mRNA technologies, next-generation vaccines, nanobodies, immunotherapies, and plasma derivatives to name just a few.

Leading the digital transition

Belgium is a hotbed for the adoption of deeptech and digitech in drug discovery, clinical trials, and biomanufacturing. We are shaping the future through innovation in nano and digital technology by facilitating the reuse of data for research and innovation in healthcare.

Accelerating the green transition

The Belgian biotech and biopharma industry is minimising its environmental impact at every step of the value chain from the supply of raw materials to production and shipment.

Working towards a greener, healthier tomorrow, our production sites keep investing in green technologies such as solar panels, heat pumps, and wastewater recycling.





The home of world class talent

Belgium offers a vibrant home to scientists, entrepreneurs, students, and employees: all the highly skilled talent essential for a world-class biotech and biopharma ecosystem.

Belgium counts 12 top universities in addition to a wide variety of universities of applied sciences, specialist training centers and dedicated science parks.

The presence of so many high quality institutions ensures a solid educational base and a stable influx of highly educated and productive employees.

2x



European average working in Belgium's life sciences

#2



Ranked nation for biopharma talent

+1500



New employees/year

The flexible workforce of the future

Rather than a certain profile or a set degree, the talent of tomorrow will possess the ability to acquire new and complementary skills and adapt to an ever-changing biotech landscape.

A balanced workforce

Belgium's integrated university and training network is accelerating the development of the required talent, always with an eye to diversity and gender equality.

The talent of tomorrow

Belgium continues to ensure that the country's extensive pool of home-grown and international talent and skills continues to meet the evolving digital and green needs of the future.





Proactive government

support

The Belgian government is committed to securing the country's position as the health and biotech valley of the future.

In October 2021, the Belgian government, under the leadership of Prime Minister De Croo, in close partnership with academia and the health and biotech industry, signed a joint charter pledging to further strengthen Belgium's leading position in biopharma R&D and production.

The three regional governments of Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels also actively support innovation in myriad ways. Each works closely with its own public service organisation to promote foreign trade and attract foreign investment.



The Belgian Foreign Trade Agency (BFTA)

works to support the federal government in the promotion of foreign trade. Visit the BFTA at www.abh-ace.be/en



Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT)

Visit FIT at welcome.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com



Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX)

Visit AWEX at www.investinwallonia.be



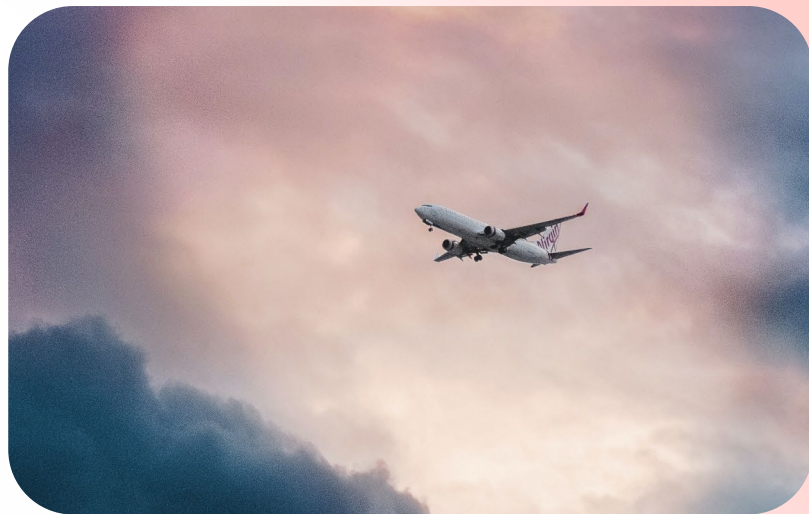
hub.brussels - The Brussels Agency for Business Support

Visit hub.brussels at why.brussels/life-science/





Unique and specialised logistics network

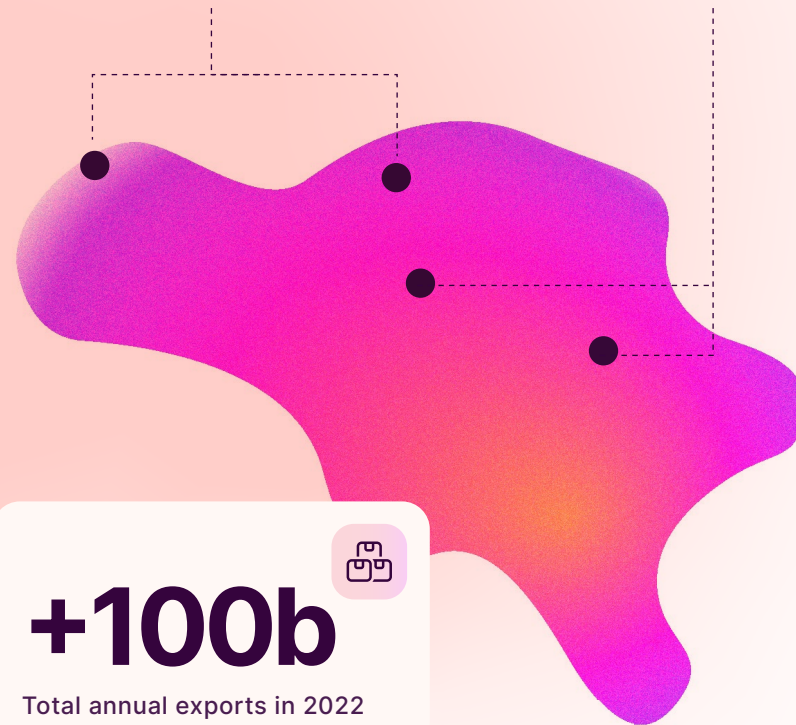


Seamlessly integrated into the global logistics network and located at the very heart of Europe, Belgium connects to the world through a vast logistical network. With 2 CEIV Pharma-certified airports and the world's first CEIV Pharma-certified

seaport, the country occupies a unique place at the heart of a global logistics. The country is also a world-leading hub offering tailored cold chain infrastructure for the trade in medicines and vaccines.

1 CEIV PHARMA-CERTIFIED SEAPORT
Port of Antwerp-Bruges

2 CEIV PHARMA-CERTIFIED AIRPORTS
Brussels, Liège





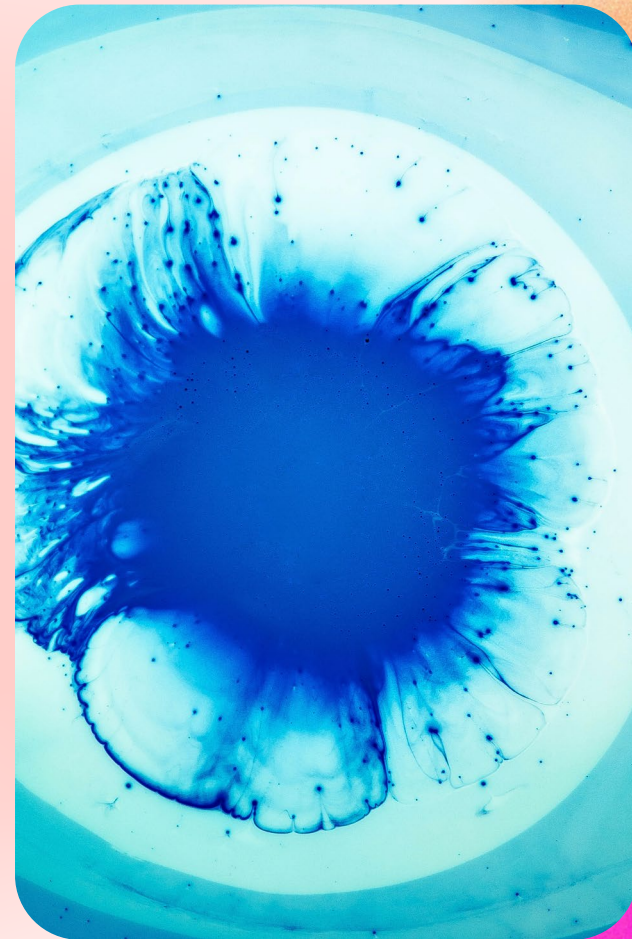
A center of scientific and industrial excellence

The Belgian biotech and biopharma ecosystem connects regional clusters of expertise with active industry federations.

Three independent federations work to foster innovation, support industrialisation, facilitate collaboration with political stakeholders, promote the ecosystem domestically and overseas, and ensure the very best healthcare for all.

Three regional clusters each bring together regional players from across the entire spectrum of biotechnology and biopharma. They power innovation through networking and training, supporting globalisation, and building expertise with a specific regional focus.

Together, these organisations foster the innovation that results in a healthier world for today – and for tomorrow.





A long and proud heritage

As a home to great scientists, innovative entrepreneurs, and many of the world's biopharma and biotech leaders, Belgium remained one step ahead in healthcare for over a century - and that leadership is set to continue.



If Belgium is such a biopharma power house it is to a large extent thanks to a dynamic ecosystem, of which academic research and innovation is a vital actor.

Peter Piot

**Professor of Global Health , London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
and Special Advisor to the President on European and global health security**





Discover the future of biotech and biopharma.

Belgium is ready to shape the future of health and biotech for the next 25 years. Join us.

healthbiotechvalley.be

